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Letter dated 24 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention a statement on the political situation in Togo, issued on 23 February 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of this letter and its annex to be circulated as a Security Council document.

(*Signed*) Jean-Marc **Hoscheit**
Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 24 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the political situation in Togo issued on 23 February 2005 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The European Union repeats the concern it expressed in its statement of 9 February 2005, and it is still greatly alarmed at developments in Togo. While the European Union welcomes the positive signals given by the announcement of presidential elections within 60 days and restoration of the freedom to demonstrate, it condemns the violation of constitutional and legal provisions in the form of the maintenance of Mr. Faure Gnassingbé as interim President of the Republic.

The European Union demands an immediate return to constitutional and legal order, to open the way for free and transparent presidential elections, to which the European Union is ready to offer its support in due course. The European Union calls for full respect for civil liberties and the holding of free and transparent elections, to which the establishment of a genuine national dialogue, or even of a national transitional government, can contribute.

In this context the European Union fully supports the actions of the African Union and of ECOWAS and the efforts being made by their Presidents, Mr. Obasanjo and Mr. Tandja, to restore constitutional order and the democratic process.

In the absence of progress, the European Union reserves the right to take measures to support the actions of ECOWAS and in particular to review its actions regarding Togo in the light of the 22 undertakings given by the Government in the context of the consultations held in 2004.

The acceding countries Bulgaria and Romania, the candidate countries Croatia* and Turkey, the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia continues to be part of the stabilization and association process.